

Program Description/Textbook or Print Instructional Material

Vendor: **Aries Technology Inc.** Web Address: **www.aries.net**

Title: **Aries A+ Technical Journal - Hardware**

Author: **Aries Technology Inc.** Copyright: **2002**

ISBN: **0-9716096-5-9** Course/Content Area: **PC Maint. & Repair**

Intended Grade or Level: **9th grade +** Readability Level: **7th Grade**

List Price: **\$40.00** Lowest Wholesale Price: **\$19.00**

All materials bid as of July 1, 2003 must be offered in an alternative format for students who require reading accommodations. A description of the levels of accommodation is included on p.8-9 of this bid packet. The Kentucky Department of Education must receive a copy of the alternative format if the instructional material is placed on the State Multiple List.

Level of Accommodations (Level One, Two or Three) **Level Three**

If Level Two or Three, please provide rationale for not meeting Level One Compliance_____

At this time Aries' curricula does not currently meet all of the standards outlined by the level one criteria. To date, these materials accommodate the following:

Non-text elements

- Text equivalent for every non-text element is available
- Frames are titled with text that facilitates frame identification and navigation, however, this feature does not work with screen readers-- direction will need to be provided to students with limitations.

Speech synthesis:

- The software that accompanies each of these textbooks will accommodate commonly used speech synthesis software

Braille conversion programs:

- The software that accompanies these materials has never been tested for compatibility with commonly used Braille conversion programs

File Formats:

- The files in each of these textbooks are available in HTML format.

Future versions of these materials can be designed to accommodate all of the level one requirements.

FEATURES

DISCLAIMER: The features of each book or program were developed by the publisher and do not reflect the opinion of the State Review Team, State Textbook Commission, nor of the Kentucky Department of Education.

Content – Aries technical journals were developed to encourage “portfolio assessment” this allows students to work through assignments and manually write out their thought process. They can then save their lab book with their work and share it with prospective employers or educational institutes. Portfolio assessment is becoming more and more popular in the IT industry, employers are looking for students who can prove their skills.

Student Experiences – We have students throughout the US, Australia, and the Netherlands who have successfully used our courses. We can provide various references from both students

and instructors. Several schools have used the portfolios to enhance their internship programs. We have received several success stories. (Available upon request)

Assessment – Aries Technology has developed a state of the art assessment system. This system does all of the following in an easy to use management system. Aries assessment includes: Attendance tracking, testing (ability to modify questions), statistical analysis, allows the instructor, student and parents to communicate through an internal email system. Also serves an electronic grade book. Our assessment is one of the easiest systems to use.

Organization – Our lab books are logically organized with the course content and textbooks to allow students to work through their lessons step by step. The lab journals serve as a reinforcement for students when learning this material.

Resource Materials – Our courses include both student and teacher resources. These aids are offered online and are free of charge to our students and instructors.

Gratis Items To Be Provided And Under What Conditions – Technical Support, Student and Teacher Resources, and assessment services.

Available Ancillary Materials

RESEARCH DATA AND EVIDENCE OF EFFECTIVENESS

DISCLAIMER: The research data and evidence of effectiveness was provided by the publisher and does not reflect the opinion of the State Review Team, State Textbook Commission, nor the Kentucky Department of Education.

NOTE: *Please complete this section by indicating the research data and evidence of effectiveness or give a web site where the information is located. If there is no research data and evidence of effectiveness, please indicate “not available” in the space.*

Not Available

KY-2B



Group V - Career/Technical Vocational/Practical Living Education Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool IT Computer Maintenance



Title: Aries A+ Technical Journal —Hardware		Cost: \$ 19.00	
Publisher: Aries Technology, Inc.			
Item Evaluated: Textbook and Software			
Copyright Date: 2001		Evaluator: Jerry Walker	
Content Level: 9-12		Date of Evaluation: 7/30/2003	
Level of Alternative Format	Level 1 – Full Compliance	Level 2 – Provisional Compliance	Level 3 – Marginal Compliance
This section completed by Exceptional Children Services			

Overall Strengths and/or Weaknesses

Disclaimer: Comments on the strengths and/or weaknesses of each book, material or program were written by members of the State Textbook/Instructional Materials Review Team and reflect their opinions . They do not reflect the opinions of the State Textbook Commission nor the Kentucky Department of Education. In addition, the State Textbook/ Instructional Materials Review Team completed each evaluation form during the week of July 28-Aug. 1, 2003. In order to maintain the integrity of the of the review team's comments, editing was limited to spelling and punctuation.

Recommendations:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recommended by reviewers to State Textbook Commission
<input type="checkbox"/> Not recommended by reviewers to State Textbook Commission

Publisher's Explanation of Reviewer's Comments: By action of the State Textbook Commission, publishers are provided limited space, 150 words, to respond to what they may consider factual errors made by the reviewers in the evaluation.



**Group V - Career/Technical
Vocational/Practical Living Education
Instructional Materials Evaluation Tool
IT Computer Maintenance**



Title: Aries A+ Technical Journal —Hardware		Publisher: Aries Technology, Inc.	
Technology Management Summary Data:		20 possible points	____ 8 ____ points earned
Technology Management Comments: No syllabus			
Technology Presentation/Interface Summary Data:		40 possible points	____ 31 ____ points earned
Technology Presentation/Interface Comments: Excellent simulations; lacks small/large group presentations			
Content Summary Data:		44 possible points	____ 26 ____ points earned
Content Comments:			
Instruction & Management Summary Data		52 possible points	____ 46 ____ points earned
Instruction & Management Comments:			
Organization & Structure Summary Data		36 possible points	____ 35 ____ points earned
Organization & Structure Comments:			
Resource Material Summary Data		40 possible points	____ 27 ____ points earned
Resource Material Comments:			



Group V - Career /Technical & Vocational/Practical Living

Electronic Instructional Media Review Form—Aries A+ Technical Journal —Hardware—Aries

Stand Alone/Independent or Integrated Software for Computer Maintenance



Equipment (circle or change fill color)	Grade Level (circle or change fill color)	Audience (circle or change fill color)	Format (circle or change fill color)	Cost: Included with text	
Windows	Primary	Individual	Stand Alone/Independent	_____single copy	_____site license
Macintosh	Intermediate	Small Group	Integrated	_____network version	_____school version
CD-ROM	Middle	Large Group	Supplemental	_____lab pack of ____ copies	_____online
DVD	High		In lieu of basal test		
Sound					
Other					

If other, explain

Type of Software: Check all that apply	_____Simulation	_____Management	_____Interdisciplinary	_____Problem Solving	_____Tutorial
_____Exploratory	_____Creativity	_____Drill and Practice	_____Critical Thinking	_____Utility	_____Other:

Rating Scale:	3—Some of the time	1—None of the time
4—All or the time	2—Minimally	0— Not applicable

Management	Rating
Allows customizing for individual learning needs.	2
Allows students to exit and resume at a later time.	2
Keeps a students performance record, where needed.	1
Allows control of various aspects of the software (e.g., turning sound off).	2
Allows for printed reports.	1
Comments:	Total
	8

Presentation/Interface	Rating
Presents material in an organized manner.	4
Has consistent, easy-to-use, on-screen instructions.	4
Has developmentally correct presentation format.	4
Adapts to different learning environments (learning styles/multiple intelligences, etc.)	2
Accessible for special needs students.	1
Runs smoothly, without long delays.	4
Presents easy-to-view text and graphics.	4
Presents easy-to-hear and understand sounds.	0
Avoids unnecessary screens, sounds, and graphics.	4
Provides immediate, appropriate feedback.	4
Comments:	Total
	31

Content—IT Computer Maintenance	Rating
Career Focus/Employability Skills/Workplace Readiness Skills	2
Computer Hardware/Software Use & Operation	4
Computer Hardware/Software Problem Solving/Troubleshooting	2
Computer Hardware/Software Repair	2
Facilitation and Customer Service	1
System Operation	3
System Monitoring	3
System Maintenance	3
System Troubleshooting	2
Help Desk Skills	2
Computer Hardware/Software Installation	2
Comments:	Total 26

Rating Scale:	2—Minimally
4—All or the time	1—None of the time
3—Some of the time	0— Not applicable

Instruction and Assessment	Rating
Identifies a Sense of Purpose	4
Builds on Student Ideas	4
Engages Students	4
Develops Computer Maintenance Ideas	4
Promotes Student Thinking	3
Assesses Student Progress	3
Enhances The Learning Environment	3
Reading level is appropriate for interest and ability level of intended student group; level remains consistent throughout.	4
Commonwealth Accountability Testing System (CATS) "like" Assessment is provided	3
Variety of Assessments (diagnostic, formative, summative, open response, multiple choice, individual, small group, oral, demonstrations, presentations, self and peer performance, portfolio prompts) is included.	3
Includes activities and opportunities for integration of technology.	4
Reflects researched-based practices (e.g. hands-on activities, technology, problem-solving situations)	3
Differentiation techniques and activities suggested.	4
Comments:	Total 46

Rating Scale:	3 – Some potential for learning	1 - Not present
4 – High potential for learning	2 – Little potential for learning	0 – Not applicable

Organization and Structure	Rating
Organization is logical and allows for spiraling of content.	4
Vocabulary and key terms are clearly defined and easily accessible within each lesson.	4
Visual illustrations (e.g. graphs, charts, models) and examples are clearly presented and content-related.	4
Illustrations and language reflect diversity (e.g. racial, ethnic, cultural, age, gender, disabilities).	3
Legible type, length of lines, spacing, and page layout and width of margins contribute to overall appearance and use.	4
Student materials seem durable and conducive to daily use.	4
Includes sufficient glossary, index and appendices.	4
Employs accurate grammar and spelling	4
Organization of material can be effectively used with Standards Based Units, Core Content and Program of Studies.	4
Comments:	Total 35

Resource Materials	Rating
Teacher materials coordinate easily with student materials (e.g. additional resources included at point of need, student pages shown, integration of technology indicated)	3
Activities are included that adapt to the various learning styles, intelligences, and interest/ability levels.	4
Extension activities including adaptations and accommodations for students with special needs.	2
Resources provide objectives, background information, common student errors, hints, advice for lesson implementation and real-world connections, connections with career and/technology and references (e.g. solution manuals, study guides)	3
Suggestions are made for integration of themes and /or interdisciplinary instruction.	2
Integration opportunities suggested and examples given.	2
Teacher resources are available online.	2
Online resources available – Repeat of information in text.	3
Online resources available – Practice skills only.	3
Online resources available – New application materials.	3
Comments:	Total 27

Rating Scale:	2—Minimally
4—All or the time	1—None of the time
3—Some of the time	0— Not applicable